

DECEMBER 1973

THIRTEENTH YEAR — No. 153

international review of the red cross



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INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

DECEMBER 1973 - No. 153

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**FRENCH EDITION
OF THE REVIEW**

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**SUPPLEMENTS
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SPANISH

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GERMAN

XXII. Internationale Rotkreuzkonferenz - Ein neuer Film des IKRK - Kolloquium über den seelsorgerischen und den geistigen Beistand in bewaffneten Konflikten und innerstaatlichen Wirren - Ein Kindergesundheitszentrum - Die Wahl fiel auf das Rote Kreuz... ! - Inhaltsverzeichnis - Band XXIV (1973).

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XXIInd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS

Opening Session Speeches

From 8 to 15 November 1973, the XXIInd International Conference of the Red Cross met in Parliament Building, Teheran. It was attended by about 700 representatives of seventy-eight Governments, the ICRC, the League, ninety-eight National Societies, and by observers from some twenty international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

The opening ceremony took place in Roudaki Hall. Their Imperial Majesties the Shahanshah Aryamehr and the Shabanou Farah, and Her Imperial Highness Princess Chams Pahlavi, President of the Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, were greeted by Angela, Countess of Limerick, Chairman of the Standing Commission; Dr. Eric Martin, President of the ICRC; Mr. José Barroso, Chairman of the League; H. E. Amir Abbas Hoveyda, Prime Minister; Mr. Assadollah Alam, Minister of the Imperial Court; Mr. Hormoz Gharib, Chief of Protocol, and Mr. Jaffar Sharif-Emani, President of the Senate.

A number of addresses were delivered, and we give below some extracts :

H. I. M. the Shahanshah Aryamehr

The present Conference is taking place at a time when our world is unfortunately confronted by all kinds of tensions, crises and struggles, which daily threaten to an increasing extent the destiny of all those who seek lawful peace and security. This ugly situation becomes even more tragic when, as we have seen recently, it affects civilians, women, children and old people who no longer have the benefit of a security zone separating the towns and villages from the front where the fighting is taking place. These acts of aggression, of which we hear daily, constitute a violation of the laws of moral conduct and human rights.

The decisions which you will take during this Conference, concerning the protection of civilians in time of war, and the increased powers which you will give to the Red Cross and the Red Crescent to carry out this important task, will therefore be of vital importance.

In spite of the considerable progress made by societies, with which unfortunately, the improvement of destructive weapons goes hand in hand, we must not lose sight of the need to safeguard Man's moral and cultural heritage, the fruits of the labours and sufferings of successive generations. Let us never forget that Man must take precedence over the machine and that moral principles and humane laws must therefore prevail over the insensitive and inexorable laws of technology.

If the vast wealth of our civilization was put to work for the higher interests and prosperity of society, if our opinions and decisions were governed by logic and commonsense and if the tremendous volume of capital invested in destruction was devoted to constructive causes, it is obvious that our world would have no difficulty in eliminating the real scourges of ignorance, poverty, famine and disease, and could easily create a society within which all peoples might better understand one another and live in peace.

That may seem utopian, but we must all hope—despite the unhealthy tendency to selfishness, fanaticism and partiality—that the day is approaching when conscience and moral principles will prevail over the forces of evil and co-operation replace confrontation. In this spirit, we hope that the different international organizations working for law and for the humanitarian principles of universal peace and friendship, particularly our own experienced Red Cross, will intensify their activities by seeking new ways of achieving their objectives and by adapting their regulations to the conditions, needs and evergrowing requirements of our times. Let us not forget that one of the functions of the Red Cross, a neutral international organization enjoying immense prestige, is to bring people together on the basis of these principles. This noble mission clearly entails responsibilities which it must assume in full knowledge of the facts.

... It also seems to me helpful to draw your attention to the role youth can play in Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun activities, as well as to the necessity of making more effective use of their strength and their dynamism. Our young people, who will tomorrow have civic responsibilities, should take a larger part in the activities of

these organizations. The experience they will gain from this, a deep knowledge of the problems mankind has to face and increased awareness of their duties to others can only give them a better preparation for their future responsibilities.

Other important subjects are to be dealt with at the Conference, in particular malnutrition and the shortage of foodstuffs. In spite of the manifold problems by which they are beset, it is my hope that all countries of the world can quickly eliminate this threat with its serious implications for the future of mankind. In our country we have established short and long-term programmes to prevent this danger. We are in duty bound to participate also at the international level and we are prepared to do so.

Because of the completely objective nature of these noble organisations and universal respect which you command, you, the worthy representatives of the various Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have the power to intervene effectively in all these fields. As far as the Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, which celebrated its fiftieth anniversary this year, is concerned, I am convinced that it will prove to be a dynamic member, aware of its duties, in our great universal family. This society is working efficiently in the field of health and first aid, both in our own country and beyond our frontiers.

I take this opportunity of expressing all our gratitude to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of many countries which have always given us immediate and effective help when disaster has unfortunately struck our country in recent years. I should also like to assure you that we shall continue, as in the past, our efforts in this field at the international level.

To-day, Tehran is happy and proud to be hosting this International Conference, attended as it is by so many men and women who are giving their experience, abilities and often even their lives in tending the ills and sufferings of mankind.

I wish you every success in your task, the most noble one which could be asked of men of goodwill, and hereby declare open the XXIInd International Conference of the Red Cross.

H. E. Sharif-Emami, Vice-President of the Red Lion and Sun Society

It is with much enthusiasm and honour that, on this felicitous and solemn occasion, I take the liberty to welcome you, your Majesties, in

the name of the Red Lion and Sun Societies as well as on behalf of all the delegations here present who represent the great family of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, thus expressing our thanks and gratitude for your patronage at the opening ceremonies of this XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross.

It is our earnest hope that the spirit of rendering good service, understanding and cooperation animating this conference will continue to prevail, so that this work so successfully started may further be pursued and that we may achieve our humanitarian goal. This is parallel with the guidelines which may be laid down by this International Conference to overcome difficulties that are the inevitable consequence of an epoch such as ours, involving all the disadvantages which an organisation of this size has to encounter in the fulfilment of its mission.

It is also our hope that the International Red Cross will succeed in carrying out with a clear and realistic vision the tasks and obligations that it has set for itself on its agenda, and we are certain that the delegates of all Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies will, with your inspiration, manage to produce an ideal atmosphere, thus making it possible to overcome prejudices and differences of opinion, so that the exchange of views may achieve positive results.

No less than ninety-nine years have elapsed since Iran officially acceded to the Geneva Conventions and 50 years since the Red Lion and Sun Society was formally established and commenced its humanitarian activities. The Red Lion and Sun is delighted to work under the high patronage of His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah Aryamehr and presided over by Her Highness Princess Shams Pahlavi.

Please allow me, as Vice-President of the Red Lion and Sun Society and in view of the mission entrusted to me, to welcome the members of delegations and governments here present and to wish them every success in carrying out their humanitarian duties which is the very heart of this meeting.

Lady Limerick, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross

...There is today a growing consciousness of the importance of common action in relieving the distress arising from man-made or natural disasters which often transcend political barriers. With improved

communications we have become more immediately and acutely conscious of these disasters and the result is a natural desire to help. This doctrine of humanitarianism—what the Stoics called “the sympathy of the whole”—is fundamental to the Red Cross and is one of the rare fields in which people of all races, nationalities, religious beliefs or political creeds can meet. It is the basis which underlies the Geneva Conventions, which bind more nations than any other international treaty.

Even now these Conventions are being revised and important developments may result from this Conference. Is this not a challenge to us? After all, the Red Cross was born in war and it is for us to help to heal its wounds.

As this is the last International Red Cross Conference I shall be attending I would like to share with you my profound conviction, gained from over half a century's practical experience of Red Cross work. The Red Cross must never attempt to be a judge between nations. If there is one vital principle which must guide our movement, it is simply this: the Red Cross must remain free from all politics; its strength and its ability to carry out its work now and in the future depend on its remaining so.

Who can foretell what future conditions may demand? One sure thing about the future is that it will not be a straight line projection of the past and that our own organisation, the Red Cross, must be sufficiently flexible and adaptable to meet any new responsibilities dictated by humanitarian needs.

That is why we are now engaged in an important study in re-appraising the role of the Red Cross and assessing its potentialities in this rapidly changing world.

Any change may mean that decisions have to be based on different criteria and that traditional methods of implementing these decisions may have to be adapted. One must bear in mind that tradition is a good guide but a bad master. What matters is to have our minds fixed on our principles and remain faithful to them.

Present global problems present many tasks for which experience has not prepared the Red Cross, but they are problems we must solve with the courage of our principles because only so can we look to the future with confidence.

In the past there has been a tendency to rely on scientific and technical achievements and to look to their development in the future to

solve our problems—but have they done so? Lowering the deathrate, largely through the control of disease, has led to a world population explosion to the point where famine threatens to replace pestilence; similarly, crop yields increased through the use of pesticides and fertilizers may result in the death of fish and other forms of animal life from pollution, and another source of food is jeopardised.

Scientific progress alone is not enough. It can be used for destructive as well as beneficial purposes; it can bring us better health but it can also produce bigger and more destructive bombs. Let us be clear—these problems are not only economic they are also humanitarian. What we need is a partnership between humanitarian ideals and technological skills. In other words we must learn to temper the computer with compassion.

Can we, as an organisation whose aims include the promotion of health, the prevention of disease and the relief of suffering, ignore these global problems?

So often the machinery of government by itself is not enough—something more is needed—the imagination and the sympathetic complementary assistance which come from independent and voluntary personal effort such as we can provide through our National Red Cross Societies.

One of the heartening features in the somewhat disturbing elements of this age is the response of young people to the challenge of social problems and to the ideals of a deeper human understanding in helping to overcome the ignorance and prejudice which divide the world. They have a feeling of involvement with other young people the world over and they are very conscious that those who follow after us will rightly condemn us if we allow any immediate difficulties to divert us from the ultimate aim of creating a way of life in which all nations and races may live in harmony. . .

Dr. Eric Martin, Président of the International Committee of the Red Cross

Your Imperial Majesties, Your Excellency the Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, Excellencies, representatives of governments and National Red Cross Societies,

We are privileged to meet here in Iran, a country with so important a role in the world's history, civilization and literature, and we are

XXIInd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS



The Emperor of Iran delivers an address at the inauguration of the Conference at Roudaki Hall in Teheran.



Lady Limerick, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross congratulating Dr. Pavle Gregoric...

HENRY DUNANT MEDAL



... and Mr. John A. MacAulay.

happy to thank the Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran, the authorities of this country and its august sovereigns for the warm welcome they have extended us.

538 years before Christ, a great Persian King, Cyrus, put out an edict, the text of which was something like this: "My mighty army has conquered Babylonia. I have given order to my soldiers that no harm be done to any of its people, who should be allowed to live in peace and to practise whatever religion they wish. I have commanded that no house be destroyed, no human being be wounded and that everyone should be left free to choose their own gods."

It is well to remember, as this Conference is about to open, this eloquent appeal uttered so many centuries ago. It was a forerunner of the principles of the Red Cross to which we should all adhere. It stands out today as an accusation against a world torn by violence and arbitrary action.

I should like to welcome the representatives of National Societies, especially of those Societies which have been recently recognized. I would also express the wish that all these Societies should work for the common ideal, independently but efficiently, in their respective countries. Every new Red Cross Society which comes into being gives us renewed hope for peace.

Over the past four years the ICRC has endeavoured to act as the neutral and active body of the Red Cross the existence of which is more than ever needed today, but its task is increasingly difficult in these times of internal upheavals, civil wars and political tension.

The ICRC attaches the greatest importance to the draft Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions. These drafts are being submitted to you before becoming the basis for discussion by the Diplomatic Conference which the Swiss Government has convened for early 1974 in Geneva. The drafts deal mainly with the protection of the civilian population against the effects of war, and the safeguarding of victims of non-international conflicts. The aim is not to amend but to expand and update the Conventions which are as valid today as ever before and, if followed to the letter, effectively protect victims.

We must appeal to all countries in the world, initially through those who govern, to bear in mind those essential rules which call for respect of the individual and demand that assistance be given to victims of conflicts in all circumstances. The Conventions should be disseminated

in schools, universities and armed forces, among the entire population in fact, if this great humanitarian endeavour is to become known wherever men are fighting against each other.

The Tehran Conference is opening in an atmosphere of tension, in which the sound of gunfire and the cries of the wounded can plainly be heard. Our thoughts go to those who suffer or who have been made prisoner, to the families which have been torn apart and all other persons for whom the Red Cross is the only hope. Notwithstanding these unhappy circumstances, however, in my capacity as the new President of the ICRC, I wish this Conference, this meeting of men and women of good will, every success.

If on entering the conference room we leave behind all those prejudices and ideologies which set nation against nation in violent opposition, if we forget all enmity, speak from the heart and show understanding towards one another in pursuance of the Red Cross ideal, what an example we shall give the world.

What the world expects of the Red Cross is not a show of dissent and disagreement, but an example of international understanding. The strength of the Red Cross lies in its good faith and desire to serve mankind, but can this message be spread in a world so torn apart as at present? We are convinced that it can, if we turn a deaf ear to political considerations and concentrate on those principles and the spirit of friendship which unite all members of National Societies.

May Tehran provide a shining light in the darkness which surrounds us.

Mr. J. Barroso, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies

... However, there is no doubt that the way of progress followed by man in the spheres of science and technology is strown with shameful acts, unjust sacrifices and tombs, with the strong making abusive use of their power and the weak falling a prey to violence and injustice. Whereas man raises his inventions to the heights, learns to dominate nature and penetrate the secrets of life, he destroys the land which gives him sustenance.

No one can ignore these truths which reduce the rules of international life and standards of civilised societies to dust, these truths which each day further impede the advent of the reign of freedom, justice and brother-

hood. Where are we going? What goal is the human race bound for? These are questions which not so very long ago only faced men of learning but which today concern everybody in all parts of the world, due to the daily recrudescence of violence and injustice. This reflecting and pondering on what has already become normal—violence which no longer disturbs anyone, death and destruction which no longer seem to surprise anybody—has made many people aware of the absolute necessity of acting, and acting without delay, within the possibilities of each person, to promote peace and the moral reawakening of the human race.

We think that the permanent activities of the Red Cross represent a sustained appeal to all men so that through their devotion towards their fellows they may find their way back to the lost road of human solidarity. It is not possible to remain indifferent in the face of the millions of human beings who are born each year throughout the world where they will not be able to meet their most elementary needs for food, clothing and a decent life. In this world pity, compassion and consolation will many times be denied them in the name of unworthy interests created by circumstances and completely contrary to what is understood by humane.

This crying contrast between reality and the mission of the Red Cross incites us to commit ourselves in whatever circumstances to promoting—both within our respective countries and at the level of international relations—a stable state of balance protecting the essential values of human life. No matter how often our words will be drowned by the noise of guns or by the lamentations of those who through the egoism of others are deprived of the help they need to live our duty is clear and definite: save life, mitigate suffering and give assistance. This is a bud which flowers and produces fruit of understanding and friendship between men.

It is possible that some do not realise the importance of the activities of our organisation, as they think that good actions are lost on the altars of more immediate and powerful interests in view of their political, social and economic context. That is why I feel that during this Conference we should make sure that our acts are in conformity with our principles and our duties, in spite of their political implications. We must make all the Governments of the world understand that there is no greater cruelty than to use human tragedy to gain political advantage.

Following each Red Cross intervention, the world is characterised by a little more confidence between men, a little less hatred and rancour, a little more tranquillity and love, a little less violence and injustice. We have more than 220 million members and must put to good use the moral strength they represent in struggling for peace and greater justice between men and peoples.

Without respite and in all faithfulness, we have endeavoured to carry out this permanent task which is both noble and rewarding. The Red Cross must never fail in this duty. May all those who hold the reins of the organisation at both the national and international level make every effort to ensure the full implementation of the idea of the founder of the Red Cross who both understood and put into practice the great truth that all men are brothers.

In conclusion, may I quote the words of a Nobel Peace Prize winner: Listen to my voice, it is that of so many men reduced to silence. Life is a valuable gift, but only of short duration . . . let us not make it even shorter.

The concept of peace is simple: mutual respect of our conflicting ideas and harmonisation of our differences.

I am firmly convinced that the destiny of men is today more than ever before in their own hands. War and peace depend on each one of us. May we all, from the most powerful to the most humble, realize this and go into action. There is a shortage of those who work for peace.

At the closing ceremony, H. E. Amir Abbas Hoveyda, Prime Minister of Iran, delivered an address in which he stressed the positive aspect of the debates, while the Chairman of the League Board of Governors warmly thanked the Iranian Government and Red Lion and Sun Society for the hospitality extended to the Conference. The President of the ICRC did likewise and recalled the reasons why we could put our trust in the Red Cross and in the effectiveness of its action:

Owing to international political tension, some were apprehensive as to the atmosphere in which this Conference might take place. They were wrong: our Iranian friends have not merely ensured technical success for our gathering. They have shown the kindness and courtesy

for which they are known, and have thus provided the friendly and relaxed atmosphere which was needed.

Even though the discussions were sometimes very sharp, most delegates genuinely desired understanding; better still, they were resolved to find formulas acceptable to all. We can therefore affirm that the Red Cross ideal did not suffer from the assaults of politics, and that respect for the Geneva Conventions was upheld in various circumstances.

At the opening meeting of the Conference, I expressed a hope: that Teheran might be a light shining in the surrounding gloom ! It so happens that a telex message has just reached me. It announces that the exchange of wounded prisoners has begun. The aircraft made available to the ICRC by the Swiss Government are flying from Israel to Egypt and from Egypt to Israel. This is indeed a shining light ! Thanks to the Red Cross, the wounded are now being welcomed by their countries and their families. We have fulfilled our duty.

* * *

Five first-class medals of the Red Lion and Sun Society were presented to Angela, Countess of Limerick, outgoing Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross; Dr. Eric Martin, ICRC President; Mr. José Barroso, League Chairman; Mr. Roger Gallopin, ICRC Executive Board President; and Mr. Henrik Beer, League Secretary-General.

Next month we shall again report on the International Conference of the Red Cross and publish comments on the work of the three Commissions and the full text of the resolutions adopted.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

The International Committee's Action in the Middle East

As indicated in our previous issue, the ICRC began to carry out its activities under the 1949 Geneva Conventions, through its delegations in the Arab countries and in Israel and Israel-occupied territories, as soon as the conflict broke out in the Middle East.

Application of the Geneva Conventions

Since the outbreak of fighting, the ICRC expressed its concern about the situation of civilian victims and of prisoners of war. Already in October, it had addressed a number of appeals to the belligerents, reminding all the parties involved of their undertakings, vis-à-vis the international community, to implement the Geneva Conventions without any reservations, and calling upon the belligerents to place humanitarian principles above all other considerations and to put into practice and without delay the undertakings they have assumed for the respect and safeguard of the human person.

Despite those appeals, the ICRC has found that, since the cease-fire, the parties to the conflict have made the full or partial application of the Geneva Conventions conditional on terms of reciprocity or have stipulated that the fulfilment of their humanitarian duties be subordinated to political or military demands. The ICRC has stressed, in this connection, the following :

“The commitments arising out of the Geneva Conventions are of a binding and absolute nature. Under those commitments, each State unilaterally undertakes, vis-à-vis all other States, without any reciprocal return, to respect in all circumstances the rules and principles they have recognized as vital. These do not involve an interchange of benefits but constitute a fundamental charter that proclaims to the world the essential guarantees to which every human being is entitled.”

The ICRC has therefore called upon the belligerents to allow it to accomplish the tasks incumbent upon it under the Geneva Conventions.

Those tasks include, in particular, the repatriation of wounded prisoners of war ; visits to all interned prisoners of war ; the forwarding of lists of prisoners of war ; and the protection of civilian populations in occupied territories.

Prisoners of war

The Egyptian and Israeli authorities, following the agreement they reached on 14 November 1973, confirmed to the ICRC that the evacuation of the wounded from Suez and of wounded members of the Egyptian Third Army, as well as the repatriation of Egyptian and Israeli prisoners of war, could start under its auspices. On the same day, the Egyptian authorities handed the ICRC the list of Israeli prisoners of war held by them. The list was also transmitted to the Israeli authorities.

Several repatriation operations, that took place between 15 and 22 November 1973, enabled some 8,500 prisoners of war to return to their own country. They were repatriated by air, by means of four aircraft (one DC-6, two DC-8 and one DC-9) provided by the Swiss Government for the ICRC. Two doctors and four nurses, despatched by the ICRC, accompanied the wounded prisoners of war on the flights, in order to care for those whose condition necessitated attention during the journey.¹

At the same time, about 1,300 wounded civilians and soldiers were evacuated from Suez in ambulances and lorries, under ICRC auspices, with the co-operation of the United Nations Emergency

¹ *Plate*

Force. On 25 November, on the Qantara road, the ICRC handed over the bodies of 11 Israeli and 28 Egyptian soldiers.

Although the repatriation of Egyptian and Israeli prisoners of war held by Israel and Egypt respectively has been successfully completed, the ICRC, at the end of November, had still not received, despite repeated requests, any capture cards concerning Israeli prisoners of war in Syrian hands or been granted authorization to visit such prisoners.

Occupied territories

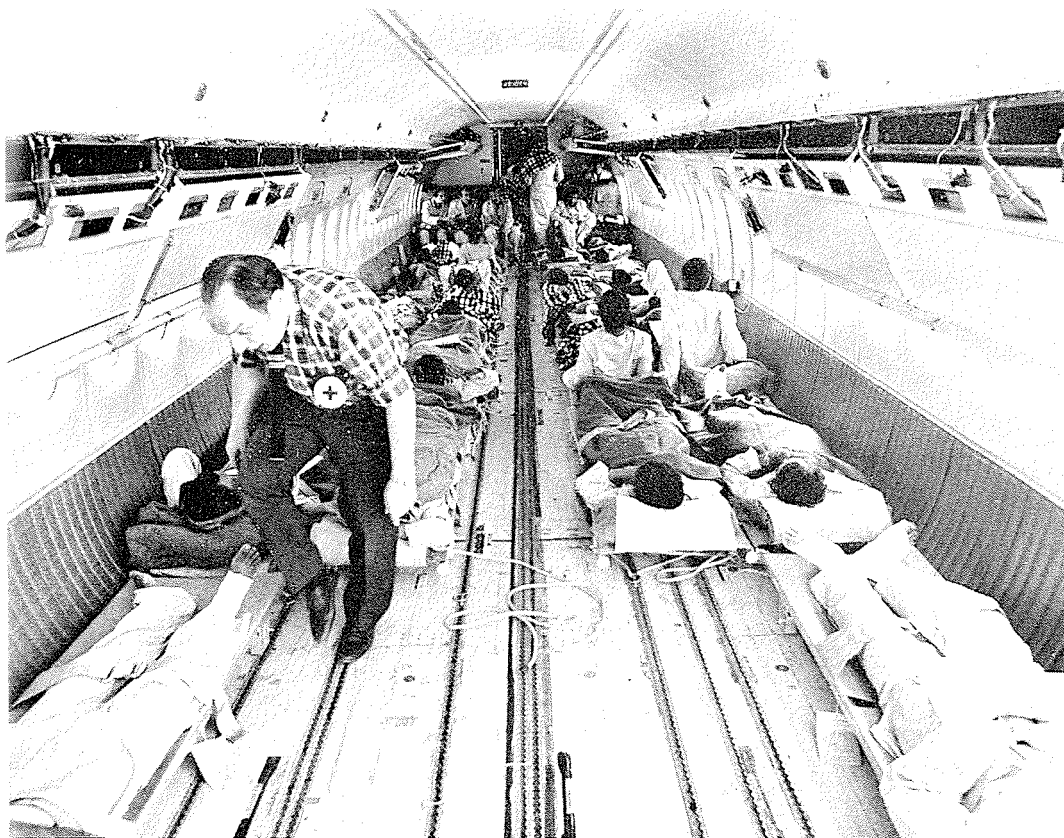
The ICRC also concerned itself with the situation of Arab civilians in occupied territories, including Egyptian and Syrian territories occupied by Israeli since 1967 as well as that following the latest conflict. But, though ICRC delegates have been authorized, since 18 November, to go to newly-occupied territories belonging to the Arab Republic of Egypt, they have not been allowed so far to enter newly-occupied Syrian territory. On the other hand, the ICRC delegate for the northern sector has been able to go to the earlier-occupied Syrian territory of the Golan Heights and continue the work being carried out in that region since 1967.

Relief

On 25 October, the ICRC organized a meeting to discuss relief action for the benefit of victims of the conflict, which was attended by over a score of National Societies. The ICRC gave an account of the work it has been carrying out in the Middle East for several years, described the plan of action it has put into operation immediately upon the outbreak of the October 1973 hostilities and put forward an assistance programme in which the whole Red Cross movement would take part, and which would be co-ordinated by the ICRC.

In October 1973, the ICRC launched a general appeal to Governments and National Societies for gifts either in cash or in kind. Sixteen National Societies responded to the appeal by despatching numerous consignments of medicaments and medical equipment, blankets and other relief supplies for the Arab Republic of Egypt (24 tons medicaments and 1,375 blankets), the Syrian Arab Republic (18 tons medicaments), Israel (6 tons medicaments and 1,375

REPATRIATION OF WOUNDED PRISONERS OF WAR



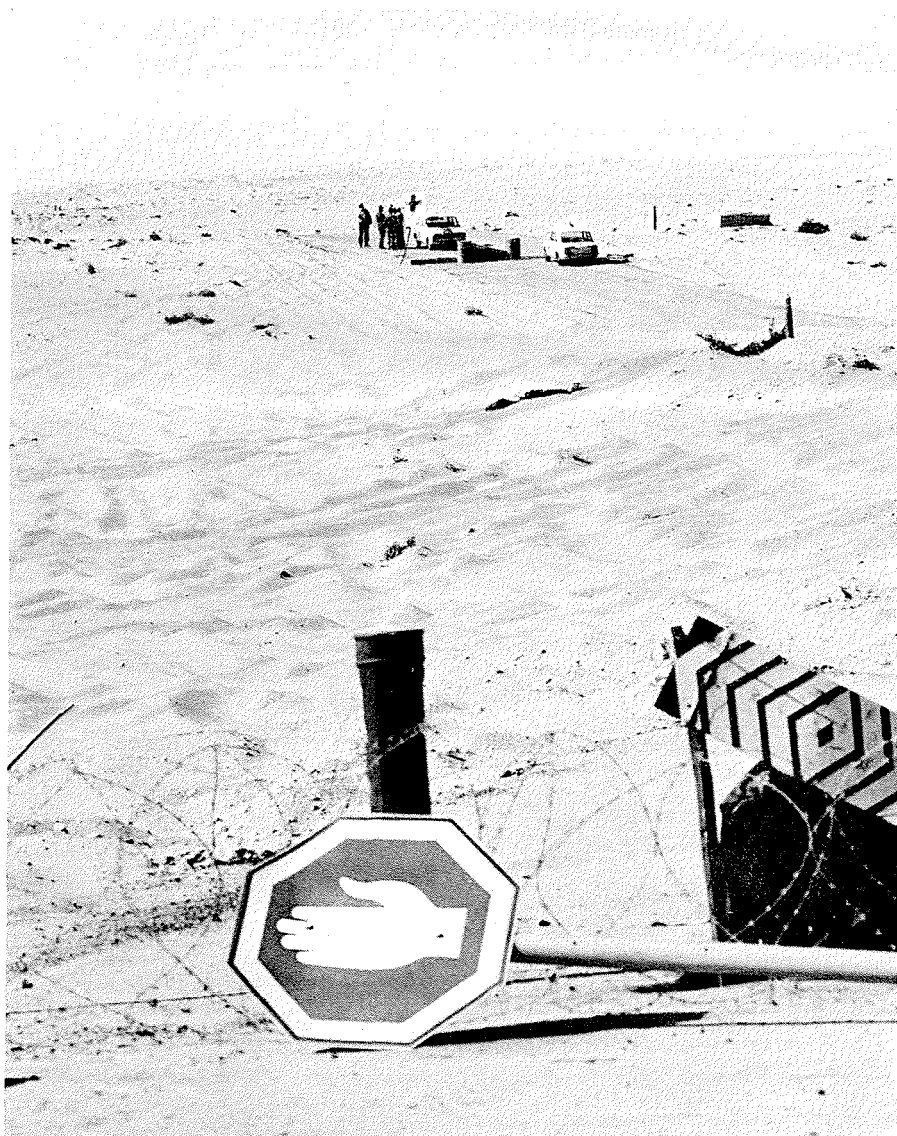
At Tel Aviv, in the ICRC aircraft, wounded Egyptian prisoners of war waiting the take off for Cairo...

Photo J.-J. Kurz/ICRC



...while, in Cairo, wounded Israeli prisoners await for their departure for Tel Aviv.
Photo Vaterlaus/ICRC

SEARCH FOR THE DEAD



After the fighting in the Sinai, Egyptian and Israeli officers meet in the « no-man's-land » under ICRC auspices...

Photo J.-J. Kurz/ICRC



...to prepare operations for recovery of the dead in the terrain between the two armies.

Photo Vaterlaus/ICRC

blankets) and Jordan (650 kg medicaments) as well as a consignment to Lebanon (4.4 tons medicaments) to be forwarded to the « Palestinian Red Crescent ». In addition, the ICRC has in stock, in its Beirut warehouse, nearly 4 tons medicaments, 230 tents and over 12,000 blankets, and in Nicosia, 200 blankets and one ton of milk. These supplies will be despatched to the victims of the conflict, in answer to requests sent from the various sectors.

As regards funds, the ICRC has received contributions from Governments, including a donation of 3 million Swiss francs from the Japanese Government, and National Societies for a sum totalling 4.8 million Swiss francs. Further amounts promised total about 1.3 million Swiss francs.

* * *

As can be seen from the foregoing article and photos, the ICRC intervened in November to permit the search for the dead who had fallen in the fighting in the Sinai and who lay in the « no-man's-land ».

Under the title *Appointment in No-Man's-Land*, Mr. J.-J. Kurz, who took part in the preparation of that operation as an ICRC delegate, recounts what he saw¹:

A tangle of barbed wire lying across the road, two barrels and some scrap-iron, plus a signpost torn up from some crossroads, complete this barrier and symbol. Beyond it, a road meandering between the dunes stretches across no-man's-land. In the distance, the town of Ismailia barely emerges from the desert landscape. Right and left, Israeli first-line positions merge with the sand in which they have been dug. Within rifle shot across the way, Egyptian soldiers can be seen. All is silence, and the Sinai desert is dotted here and there with tank carcasses, shapeless black hulks on the churned up sand.

At ten o'clock we have an appointment, a few hundred metres off the desert road, between the two armies. Under the protection of the Red Cross flag, we ICRC delegates—some of us from Cairo and others from Tel Aviv—are to sponsor a meeting between an Egyptian officer and an Israeli officer. Here they are to discuss an operation which so far has not been possible because of the fighting. After the bitter and violent battle, a great many dead are lying inside the armoured vehicles or

¹ Plate

half covered by sand. They must be found, identified and buried. While soldiers from both armies carry out the task, the ICRC delegates will be standing by to "neutralize" the operational zone.

But this is only our first contact. It is a quarter past ten, and still there is no sign from the Egyptian outposts across the way, although their cars, like our own, are clearly visible among the military vehicles. They are white, with the red cross painted on top and on the sides. Each flies a flag. Half past ten. Were the messages perhaps too fragmentary or garbled? Or is the appointment being cancelled at the last moment? To make sure, we must go forward and invite some reaction.

We get into the first car and skirt the barricade, in the sand. And now we are driving along the tarred road. A hundred metres: two hundred. Again we wait, peering through our field-glasses towards the Egyptian lines at the end of the road. We must advance a little further and make ourselves more conspicuous. We must get out and walk, carrying the Red Cross flag.

On we go then, in a silence which all of a sudden seems oppressive. We feel the dozens of eyes, behind their field-glasses, watching our every movement. And we feel too that we must watch our step. The flag at arm's length becomes heavier as we advance between the two armies massed behind the dunes, our only safeguard the flag bearing a red cross on a white background. All of a sudden, out of the south, comes a rumbling through the desert. If it is an artillery duel, it may spread to the whole sector, and then we shall be in the very midst. The rumbling dies down, and we go on. Our steps resound on the tarred desert road. The flag is flapping in the wind and seems still heavier than it was before.

Then at last, in the hazy distance, a white spot is moving. A few seconds later it becomes more distinct. Our fellow delegates have come from Cairo! We stop and wait for the white car with the red cross. Two delegates have come over from the other side. We greet one another and shake hands. We feel that we know each other even though we have never met before.

Then the two liaison officers arrive. After introductions and handshakes the discussion starts. Then the two of them, technicians discussing a problem, go down the road, side by side. To see them walking along in step, talking to one another, one wonders what actually divides them!

What matters to us is that here in no-man's-land, with no other protection than the red cross emblem, adversaries have been able to meet, by appointment, and talk.

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Chile**

The ICRC delegation in Chile, composed of eight delegates, one of them a doctor, is continuing to visit places of detention. Divided into three teams, they have again visited southern and northern Chile and the capital. At Santiago the delegates witnessed the evacuation of the National Stadium, from which detainees were transferred to Chacabuco (near Antofagasta), the Chile Stadium and the Santiago Penitentiary. The ICRC visited the detainees in their new places of detention.

During the month of November, the ICRC made several approaches to the Chilean authorities regarding conditions of detention and sentences passed by the courts.

In response to its appeal for relief, the ICRC has received donations in kind and in cash from more than twenty National Societies.

The cash contributions made by fifteen Red Cross Societies amount to a total of around 280,000 Swiss francs.

About ten National Societies have informed the ICRC of relief supplies sent to Chile direct (blankets, medicaments, vaccines, dressings, food, baby foods, and powdered milk).

In addition, the ICRC has sent 25 tons of powdered milk to Santiago (value 175,000 Swiss francs) plus 4 tons of medicaments, vaccines, medical and surgical supplies, totalling more than 150,000 Swiss francs (including transport).

Mission in West Africa

The ICRC regional delegate for West Africa was in *Liberia* from 11 to 17 October 1973. In Monrovia he met the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Education, and the Deputy Ministers of Justice, Rehabilitation and Defence.

The ICRC delegate also visited two places of detention where he was able, as usual, to talk freely and without witnesses with detainees of his choice. A private donor having made a contribution towards the ICRC's activities in Africa, the sum of 25,000 Swiss francs was allotted to the construction of a refectory in the Monrovia central prison and to the purchase of blankets and toilet articles.

After a stopover in the *Ivory Coast*, the ICRC regional delegate proceeded to *Ghana*, where he spent five days, and then to *Togo*. In that country he visited six places of detention, interviewed detainees without witnesses, and distributed medicaments and various relief supplies to the detainees. He also met the Ministers of Justice, the Interior and Health.

On his way back, the delegate made a three-day stopover in *Dahomey*, where he conferred with Government authorities and Red Cross officers, after which he returned to the seat of the regional delegation, at Yaoundé.

Rhodesia

From 15 to 26 October 1973, Mr. J. Moreillon, ICRC delegate-general for Africa, and two other delegates, one of them a doctor, visited the 289 persons at present detained under the emergency regulations in Rhodesia. They visited places of detention at Marandellas, Salisbury, Que Que, Wha Wha, Shabani, Sengwe, Buffalo Range and Chikurubi. As usual, the delegates talked freely and without witnesses with detainees of their choice. They provided the detainees with relief supplies.

After these visits, the delegate-general and the two delegates met the Secretary for Justice and the Secretary for Law and Order, with whom they discussed improvements to be made to the deten-

tion conditions of those they had visited and a 20,000 Swiss franc programme of material assistance which the ICRC proposed to carry out. They also took up the question of the 30-day detainees and charged or convicted prisoners whom the ICRC had not been permitted to visit in Rhodesia. The ICRC delegates also had contacts with the Rhodesian section of the Red Cross and conferred with the Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs.

Mozambique

At the end of October 1973, Mr. J. Moreillon, delegate-general for Africa, and two other ICRC delegates, one of whom was a doctor, went to Mozambique for a further round of visits to places of detention. On 29 and 30 October, they visited the Machava camp, where they had their usual private talks with detainees of their choice. The delegates handed out relief supplies. Following the visit there was a disagreement with the local authorities ; this made it necessary for the delegate-general to interrupt the visits and proceed to Lisbon, where the matter is now being studied by the Portuguese Government.

Asian sub-continent

In the Asian sub-continent, the ICRC is pursuing its activities in the repatriation of prisoners of war and civilians among the three countries, in accordance with the Agreements of 28 August 1973.

The scope of this action, concerning as it does thousands of persons, has made it necessary for the ICRC to increase its personnel in those three countries. Thus the delegation at New Delhi is now composed of fifteen delegates, and the delegations at Islamabad and Dacca of twenty-one each. The number of local personnel reaches 400 in the three delegations.

Pakistani prisoners of war and civilian internees in India are repatriated by rail. By 26 November, 17,377 prisoners of war and 10,107 civilian internees had returned home.

In co-operation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the ICRC is also arranging

for the repatriation from Pakistan to Bangladesh, by air, of Bengali ex-servicemen and their families, and other Bengali civilians. Of the former, 27,992 had been repatriated on 26 November; and of the latter, 18,835.

By the same day, 18,678 non-locals had left Bangladesh for Pakistan.

The ICRC registered 198,714 non-locals in Bangladesh and sent the list to the Pakistan Government. Conversely, the ICRC sent the Bangladesh authorities the names of 51,888 Bengalis in Pakistan.

IN GENEVA

A new ICRC film

Pax, the new ICRC film which was awarded a special diploma of honour at the Fifth International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films, is now on sale. For all ages, this original film illustrates essential rules of the Geneva Conventions.

The film, in colour, is 227 metres in length, lasts for 23 minutes and has impressive sound effects but no dialogue. It was taken in Malaysia and Switzerland in co-operation with the Malaysian Red Cross and authorities. The actors are some sixty 7-12-year old children who are divided into two rival "armies". When the battle is over, the leader of the winning side realizes the futility of war, and the film closes on the children's spontaneous roundelay.

The ICRC hopes National Societies will welcome this new addition to the audio-visual material for the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions among the public.

ICRC publications in Arabic

Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts. 13 pages of penmanship summarizing the two draft Additional Protocols which will be submitted to the forthcoming Diplomatic Conference in Geneva.

The Sign of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the Repression of Its Abuse—a 22-page brochure with the main articles of the 1949 Geneva Conventions on the use of the emblem.

The Koran and the Humanitarian Conventions. In this 14-page re-edition of the article published in the November 1960 issue of "International Review of the Red Cross", Mr. M. K. Ereksoussi shows that some of the principles underlying the Geneva Conventions were already recognized and affirmed in the Koran.

*

These three booklets published by the ICRC have been translated into Arabic by a member of the institution's staff, Mr. R. Chalaby, who also wrote the foreword for each of them. They are available from the ICRC Documents Service in Geneva, at 2 Sw.fr. a copy.

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

TEHERAN MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

LEAGUE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The 32nd session of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, held at Teheran from 2 to 6 November 1973, assembled more than 500 delegates from ninety-two National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies. Its agenda included the League's plan and budget for the next two years and specific items such as promoting the development of National Societies, blood transfusion, and emergency relief. It also considered the progress report on the study on the reappraisal of the role of the Red Cross. Agreement was reached on provisions to eliminate any racial discrimination which might be practised in the Red Cross movement, and it was also decided that the Red Cross would hold a conference on Peace. These subjects were referred to the Commissions of the International Conference of the Red Cross, and a number of resolutions were adopted.

Lastly, the Board of Governors re-elected Mr. José Barroso (Mexico) Chairman of the League for a third term of four years, and elected eight Vice-Presidents: Shri S. Ranganathan (India), Dr. N. Troyan (USSR), Mr. K. Warras (Finland), Maître M. Carraud (France), H.E. Ato A. Jembere (Ethiopia), Professor W. Ludwig (German Democratic Republic), Jonkheer G. Kraijenhoff (Netherlands) and Mr. F. Stanton (United States of America). In addition, Professor H. Haug is *ex officio* ninth Vice-President in his capacity as President of the Swiss Red Cross, Switzerland being the country where the League has its headquarters.

We might add that five new National Societies were admitted as members of the federation — those of Bahrain, Bangladesh, Fiji, Mauritania and Singapore — thus bringing total League membership up to 120.

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

The Council, which is composed of representatives of the ICRC, the League and all recognized National Societies, met at Teheran on 7 November 1973, and elected Dr. Eric Martin, President of the ICRC, its Chairman.

It heard reports on the Empress Shoken Fund, the Augusta Fund and the Florence Nightingale Medal. The report of the Commission for the Financing of the ICRC was adopted, as was the resolution on racism and racial discrimination already submitted to the Board of Governors. The Council then turned to questions relating to the control of the Statutes of National Red Cross Societies and adopted a resolution submitted on that subject by the Standing Commission. Lastly, Mr. Pierre Boissier, a member of the ICRC, described the achievements of the Henry Dunant Institute, of which he is Director, in research, training and publications during the past four years.

Henry Dunant Medal

Also at the meeting of the Council of Delegates, Lady Limerick, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, presented *Dr. Pavle Gregorić* (Yugoslavia) and *Mr. John A. MacAulay* (Canada) with the Henry Dunant Medal, which is known to be the highest distinction of the Red Cross.

Dr. Gregorić, who was President of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia for twenty years before being appointed Honorary President for life, in 1967, actively contributed to the prevention of disease and to improved health conditions in his country. Mr. MacAulay was Chairman of the League of Red Cross Societies from 1959 to 1965.

He has rendered the Red Cross great services, both nationally and internationally, for he was President and is now Vice-President of the Canadian Red Cross.

STANDING COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

The Standing Commission comprises nine members, namely, two representatives of the ICRC, two of the League and five elected members holding office until the close of the following International Conference of the Red Cross.

At Teheran, the XXIIInd Conference elected the following members to the Standing Commission : Mr. George Aitken (Canada), Mrs. Farid Issa-el-Khoury (Lebanon), Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris (Australia), Sir Evelyn Shuckburgh (United Kingdom) and Dr. Nadejda Troyan (USSR).

At its first meeting on 15 November, the new Standing Commission elected Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris and Mrs. Issa-el-Khoury as its Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. Mr. T. Sloper was requested to continue to act as technical adviser.

The Standing Commission was entrusted by the XXIIInd Conference with the duty of fixing the date and place of the XXIIIrd Conference on the basis of proposals made to it.

**INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ASSISTANCE
IN INDO-CHINA**

Republic of Vietnam

The Netherlands Red Cross medical team working in Chaudoc has completed its mission. The team will not be replaced as it trained local personnel to continue the work of medical aid in the camps.

Two medical teams of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, each composed of one doctor and one nurse, have been working since 7 November. One team is at Lam Dong with 12,000 *montagnards* and the other is looking after 19,000 displaced persons at Binh Tuy.

IOG has come to the aid of the Red Cross of the Republic of Vietnam with a sum of money for urgent relief supplies to the victims of typhoons "Sarah" and "Thelma", and has launched an appeal to other National Societies for contributions in cash or in kind.

Democratic Republic of Vietnam

About 3,000 prefabricated dwellings ordered in Finland, Japan and Sweden by the Indo-China Operational Group (IOG) are now either in production or in process of being shipped to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The first batch of 1,200 houses from Japan is due to arrive in Haiphong at the end of December.

**Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of
South Vietnam**

The first consignment of equipment for the 250-bed hospital, consisting of material to a value of about Sw. Frs. 700,000, for the out-patients surgical department, is on its way to Haiphong.

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

Laos

The Japanese Red Cross medical team at Pak Lay will be replaced in December by another Japanese team which will also serve for six months in this remote area of Laos where elephants are the standard means of transport for heavy supplies. Teams from the Belgian and British National Societies continue their medical work at Paksane. The northern part of the country is covered by the Swiss team based in Luang Prabang.

Pathet Lao

Mobile X-ray equipment, medicaments, medical and surgical kits in considerable quantities have now been and are being delivered to the Pathet Lao for aid to the population in the areas they control.

Khmer Republic

In October, the Swedish Red Cross team started its work in Kompong Cham Hospital. A joint medical team from the National Societies of Denmark and Norway is at work in Kompong Thom.

PROMOTION OF THE RED CROSS IMAGE

This was the theme of the third meeting of the Heads of National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies Information and Public Relations Services which was held at Varna in June 1973, and about which International Review published an article in its August issue.

We revert to that meeting here in order to give readers some excerpts, covering four agenda items, from a recent summary record.

I. Develop the Red Cross Information and Public Relations Structure

It was proposed that the first responsibility of Information and Public Relations Services of the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies is that of supporting fully the policy and programmes of these Societies, while promoting simultaneously the image of Red Cross throughout the world. Each National Society would be primarily concerned with creating a favourable "climate" of Public Relations within its own country, while the I.C.R.C. and the League are responsible for advising and assisting the National Societies, as requested, and co-ordinating international publicity actions which build up and maintain a positive public image of the Red Cross movement worldwide...

... Certain wishes were expressed which will depend on both the National Societies and the international institutions.

1. Developing the co-production of Red Cross films, with emphasis on those which would make a real impact on the general public.

2. Increasing study visits, for personnel of National Societies, with the international institutions; and advisory-work missions of I.C.R.C. and League Information and Public Relations officers invited by the National Societies.

3. Continuing and increasing the exchange of practical information between National Societies and the League, concerning subjects such as the promotion of the free gift of blood, fund raising, membership recruitment, etc.

4. Organizing regional meetings, particularly on technical subjects, upon the initiative of National Societies of a given region, or of the League. The results of such regional meeting could then be advantageously transmitted to representatives of all National Societies, and could be reviewed at subsequent General Meetings convened by the I.C.R.C. and the League, on the average of once every three years.

II. Propagation of Red Cross Principles and of Humanitarian Law, particularly the Geneva Conventions

National Societies should develop and plan for a long time ahead their efforts, in harmony with their Governments, to disseminate Red Cross Principles and humanitarian law, particularly the Geneva Conventions. In that respect, they should be guided by the plan of action proposed by the I.C.R.C., which is ready to assist in every way, at all times.

III. Make the Red Cross Better Known

During the discussion, participants underlined again the importance for National Societies to take advantage of the mass media and other means at their disposal to present a positive public image of themselves in general and, in particular, to support fund raising and membership recruitment.

Emphasis was put upon the role of the I.C.R.C. and the League, to assist the National Societies, especially in co-ordinating the release of Red Cross news from Geneva when it is likely to have repercussions within the National Societies, as for example during an international crisis or a large-scale natural disaster.

IV. Obtain Increased Means of Action for the Red Cross

Fund raising and membership recruitment should not be viewed as isolated activities, but rather as the logical outgrowth of a permanent programme of Information and Public Relations. Although obtaining increased means of action for the Red Cross takes many different forms, and some National Societies do no fund raising, there does seem to be a universal need for recruiting and training volunteers...

WORLD RED CROSS DAY

“ GIVE BLOOD . . . SAVE LIFE ”

Such is the slogan proposed by the League of Red Cross Societies for the forthcoming World Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Day, which will be commemorated on 8 May 1974 by most National Societies throughout the world. In some countries, World Red Cross Day is held on an alternate date, due to national holidays falling on 8 May.

The theme for next year's World Day is based on the voluntary and free gift of blood, a long-standing priority among Red Cross objectives. The Red Cross assumes in 16 countries—at the request of the Government—full responsibility for national blood programmes. In 42 countries, it operates blood transfusion centres and mobile blood collection units. All National Societies assist in various ways in promoting blood donor recruitment.

In fact, for many years the Red Cross movement has played a leading role in blood transfusion work and in the motivation of blood donors. Resolutions adopted at International Conferences of the Red Cross and during meetings of the League's Board of Governors have repeatedly underlined the importance of Red Cross work in these fields. Accordingly, the League co-operates closely with the international organizations involved, including the World Health Organization, Council of Europe, International Blood Transfusion Society, International Federation of Blood Donor Organizations, and the World Federation of Haemophilia.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

WORLD CONGRESS OF PEACE FORCES

The World Congress of Peace Forces, attended by approximately 3,200 delegates representing 144 countries, 9 international organizations affiliated to the United Nations and 117 international and national institutions, was held in Moscow from 25 to 31 October 1973.

The International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies were invited to send observers and it was in that capacity that Mr. Harald Huber, ICRC Vice-President, attended on behalf of the ICRC, while Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, Chairman of the Australian Red Cross and then Vice-Chairman of the League Board of Governors, and Mr. T. Dale, President of the Norwegian Red Cross, represented the League.

The organization of the Congress was excellent. The host country had made available to participants, who enjoyed the most generous hospitality, modern well-equipped premises and extremely efficient organizing staff.

The participants split up into 14 Commissions to examine topical problems relating to activities in favour of peace. Numerous points that are in common with the activities now being pursued by the Red Cross, as well as those which it plans to put into operation, were referred to during the debates, for example, on peaceful co-existence and international security, liberation movements, protection of the environment, human rights, etc. Though a number of politically committed viewpoints often predominated, on the

whole and without any ambiguity the will to avoid armed conflicts and to ensure to all human beings decent conditions of life in which the natural environment would be respected was clearly asserted. The ICRC was much stimulated by this Congress to pursue increasingly extensive activities towards peace.

The Congress had the opportunity to listen to an address by Mr. Leonid Brejnev, Member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, who spoke in general terms on the situation in the world today, underlining, among other points, the need for peaceful co-existence.

In Moscow, Mr. Huber and the League representatives met the President of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the USSR, Mrs. Troyan, and its Vice-President, Professor Zakharov, and visited the Alliance's headquarters building.

NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

In its December 1972 issue, *International Review* published an account of the twenty-second Annual Congress of the Association for the Study of the World Refugee Problem (AWR), held at Geneva in October 1972. A draft resolution, submitted by the Association's President, Mr. H. G. Beckh, called upon him and his colleagues to contact international jurists, with the aim of organizing together with them round-table conferences whose purpose would be to reconcile the different doctrines relating to the notion of State sovereignty. It was considered that, when exercised absolutely and in an excessively rigid fashion, State sovereignty was often at the root of the appearance of refugees.

Following the resolution, a round-table meeting was organized in August 1973 at Vaduz, under the patronage of H. R. H. the Prince

of Liechtenstein. A number of prominent jurists, including Professors G. I. A. D. Draper, P. de la Pradelle, J. H. Kaiser and J. Paternogic, were invited to take part in the meeting, to whom Mr. Pictet, ICRC Vice-President, sent the following message: "I wish you all success in your discussions on a question of such importance. I feel that the time has now come to undertake a study of this problem and to seek a solution that will be fully consonant with the vital interests of mankind."

The round-table participants agreed to pursue their deliberations and to study in depth the problem of the relation between national sovereignty and human rights. Action was envisaged along the following lines:

To constitute a study group—to set up an administration centre in Vaduz—to collect and perhaps publish documents on the matter—to organize round-table meetings with the participation of experts on various subjects—to co-operate with government and non-governmental organizations and with educational and research institutions.

Accordingly, a study group was constituted; it was decided that the nucleus of the group would consist of those who took part in the round-table meeting. Its intention is to undertake a widespread enquiry, the results of which will be submitted to government and non-governmental organizations and will undoubtedly be of assistance to them in their humanitarian work.

NURSES AND THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

In July 1970 an international seminar organized by the International Council of Nurses was held in Warsaw. Its theme was the law relating to nursing.¹ Reminding participants of the general legal principles of medical legislation, Miss M. Henry urged them not to forget, in spite of the administrative aspect of the meeting's work, the profoundly human character of nursing: "Do not let us lose sight of the individual who is the reason for nursing legislation, nursing councils, professional associations, divisions of nursing in government departments, and for our being here today: the patient".

For her part, Miss A. Pfirter, representing the ICRC, and at that time head of that Institution's medical personnel section, explained the 1949 Geneva Convention provisions of concern to nurses. Parts of her address are quoted below:

A single decade is very little in the course of history and yet the ten years from 1854 to 1864 were marked by three fundamental ideas whose implementation has continued to bear fruit ever since throughout the whole world. All three are of concern to nurses. They are:

- professional training in secular nursing schools;
- the birth of the International Red Cross and National Red Cross Societies;
- the conclusion of the First Geneva Convention for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field, which was later followed by

the Second Geneva Convention for the amelioration of the condition of wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea;

the Third Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war, and

¹ "Report of an International Seminar on Nursing Legislation", published by the International Council of Nurses (Geneva, 1971, 101 pp.).

the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war.

It would be difficult for us to imagine what the plight of military and civilian wounded and sick in conflicts in the 20th century would have been if they could not have

- been given nursing care by qualified personnel;
- received medical and food relief from the Red Cross;
- benefited from the protection of the Geneva Conventions.

That they can do so is due to the work of two great pioneers of the last century, namely: Florence Nightingale and Henry Dunant.

Nursing care, relief and protection are the only pillars sustaining the hope of innumerable victims of war. However, the rules relating to these three must be known and respected, otherwise one or another of these pillars might collapse and bring the others down with it.

Let us then examine the general provisions for the protection of certain categories of persons, particularly the wounded and sick and the personnel assigned to treat them. The doctors and nurses and all the personnel of the armed forces medical services and of civilian hospitals in an occupied country or in an area where military operations are going on are—it must be emphasized—protected only in the interest of their patients and provided that they maintain the strictest neutrality. That neutrality is testimony of the enemy's confidence in the protected personnel. The commission of any act in breach of the rules laid down in the Conventions could have the most serious consequences not only for the person who committed the offence but also for those for whom he is responsible.

Before a State ratifies the Geneva Conventions it must bring its national legislation into line with the provisions of those Conventions; in consequence, the Conventions today are binding on the whole population of 135 countries which are parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Nurses who, in the event of conflict, discharge their duties either in their own country or with a medical team abroad are among the first called upon to apply these Conventions. It is, therefore, essential that they be adequately prepared to do so.

The handbook *Rights and Duties of Nurses under the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949* summarizes the essentials.

Rather than dwell on some of the articles in the Conventions, I prefer to call upon you to imagine that you are in one or other of the following situations:

A military hospital is set up in a hotel on a hill and with a clear view in every direction. It is distinctly marked by several protecting Red Cross signs. The commander of an anti-aircraft unit sends his technicians to set up an observation post in the top storey. The technicians inform the matron of the orders they have received.

What should her attitude be?

Ten wounded troops are brought to the surgical unit. Two of them are enemy soldiers in need of immediate revival treatment, whilst the remaining eight have only minor wounds.

Which cases have to be given priority?

An army medical service ambulance is captured by the enemy.

What will happen to the wounded and the sick?

What will happen to the doctors and nurses?

What will happen to the medical equipment, transport equipment, etc.?

Can medical personnel be taken prisoner of war? If so:

What will their status be?

How can members of the medical service prove their identity and assignment?

What type of work may they be compelled to do?

How can they communicate with their families?

A country is invaded by a foreign army. An officer of the enemy army medical service wishes to requisition for his own wounded a hospital which already has several hundred patients.

What is the correct solution?

A nursery in an occupied area is short of food and medical supplies. How can that be remedied officially, bearing in mind that children under twelve, invalids and old people have certain privileges under the Fourth Convention?

The matron of a hospital in occupied territory is informed that two nurses, entitled to the protection granted to hospital staff by the Fourth Convention, take an active part in a resistance movement when off duty.

What should be done?

What arrangements must the management of every civilian hospital make in peacetime with a view to protecting it and its staff in time of war?

It would not be difficult to extend the list of situations with which a member of the medical personnel might have to deal. Her decision—depending on whether she knows the Geneva Conventions or not—her personal reaction, perhaps ill-considered, will often be decisive not only in respect of the plight of the wounded and the sick for whom she is responsible, but also for the other members of a medical unit or civilian hospital.

The seminar's recommendations and conclusions contain the following paragraphs which are important for the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions :

... (4) The Geneva Conventions of 1949 having become part of national legislation by ratification of individual governments, all nurses should be instructed in the provisions contained therein concerning nurses; this instruction should be continuing.

The instruction should be included in the basic curriculum of all nursing personnel. In time of national emergency the instruction should be extended to all categories of persons undertaking nursing duties. ...

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TWO ICRC PUBLICATIONS

The ICRC, working on the preparation of the Draft Protocols which are to be submitted to the Diplomatic Conference scheduled to take place early in 1974, convened two sessions of a Conference of Government Experts, on each of which a report has been issued. These two reports, bearing the same title, may be obtained from the ICRC:

"Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts"—First session, Geneva, 1971.

Report on the Work of the Conference

Geneva, 1971: 8vo, 121 pp. Sw. Fr. 15.—

*

"Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts"—Second session, Geneva, 1972.

Report on the Work of the Conference

Geneva, 1972: 8vo, vol. I	209 pp.	{ Sw. Fr. 25.— the 2 volumes
vol. II	116 pp.	



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EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTES OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
ADOPTED 21 JUNE 1973

ART. 1. — *International Committee of the Red Cross*

1. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by International Conferences of the Red Cross, shall be an independent organization having its own Statutes.

2. It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross.¹

ART. 2. — *Legal Status*

As an association governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, the ICRC shall have legal personality.

ART. 3. — *Headquarters and Emblem*

The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.

Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be *Inter arma caritas*.

ART. 4. — *Role*

1. The special role of the ICRC shall be:

- (a) to maintain the fundamental principles of the Red Cross as proclaimed by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross;
- (b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition;
- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions;

¹ The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term "National Red Cross Societies" includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve, in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties;
- (e) to ensure the operation of the Central Information Agencies provided for in the Geneva Conventions;
- (f) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities;
- (g) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension;
- (h) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

2. The ICRC may also take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its role as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any question requiring examination by such an institution.

ART. 6 (first paragraph). — *Membership of the ICRC*

The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. It shall comprise fifteen to twenty-five members.

ADDRESSES OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

- AFGHANISTAN — Afghan Red Crescent, Puli Artan, *Kabul*.
- ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga e Barrikadave, *Tirana*.
- ALGERIA — Central Committee of the Algerian Red Crescent Society, 15 bis, Boulevard Mohamed V, *Algiers*.
- ARGENTINA — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yrigoyen 2068, *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122-128 Flinders Street, *Melbourne 3000*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3 Gusshausstrasse, Postfach 39, *Vienna IV*.
- BAHRAIN — Bahrain Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 882, *Manama*.
- BANGLADESH — Bangladesh Red Cross Society, Amin Court Building, Motijheel Commercial Area, *Dacca 2*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98 Chaussée de Vleurgat, *1050 Brussels*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simón Bolívar, 1515 (Casilla 741), *La Paz*.
- BOTSWANA — Botswana Red Cross Society, Independence Avenue, P.O. Box 485, *Gaborone*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça Cruz Vermelha 10-12, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. S. S. Buzarov, *Sofia 27*.
- BURMA — Burma Red Cross, 42 Strand Road, Red Cross Building, *Rangoon*.
- BURUNDI — Red Cross Society of Burundi, rue du Marché 3, P.O. Box 324, *Bujumbura*.
- CAMEROON — Central Committee of the Cameroon Red Cross Society, rue Henry-Dunant, P.O.B. 631, *Yaoundé*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95 Wellesley Street East, *Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 1H6*.
- CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC — Central African Red Cross, avenue Mobutu, B.P. 1428, *Bangui*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa María 0150, Correo 21, Casilla 246V., *Santiago de Chile*.
- CHINA — Red Cross Society of China, 22 Kanmien Hutung, *Peking, E*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65, Apartado nacional 1110, *Bogotá D.E.*
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 5a, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Calle 23 201 esq. N. Vedado, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, *Prague I*.
- DAHOMEY — Red Cross Society of Dahomey, P.O. Box 1, *Porto Novo*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Ny Vestergade 17, DK-1471 *Copenhagen K*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Juan Enrique Dunant, Ensanche Miraflores, Apartado Postal 1293, *Santo Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorian Red Cross, Calle de la Cruz Roja y Avenida Colombia 118, *Quito*.
- EGYPT (Arab Republic of) — Egyptian Red Crescent Society, 34 rue Ramses, *Cairo*.
- EL SALVADOR — El Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente 21, *San Salvador*.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, Red Cross Road No. 1, P.O. Box 195, *Addis Ababa*.
- FIJI — Fiji Red Cross Society, 193 Rodwell Road, P.O. Box 569, *Suva*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1 A, Box 14168, *00141 Helsinki 14*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17, rue Quentin Bauchart, F-75384 *Paris, CEDEX 08*.
- GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC — German Red Cross of the German Democratic Republic, Kaitzerstrasse 2, DDR 801 *Dresden 1*.
- GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, 5300, *Bonn 1*, Postfach (D.B.R.).
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, National Headquarters, Ministries Annex A3, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREECE — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3a Calle 8-40, Zona 1, *Ciudad de Guatemala*.
- GUYANA — Guyana Red Cross, P.O. Box 351, Eve Leary, *Georgetown*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, Place des Nations Unies, B.P. 1337, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, 1a Avenida entre 3a y 4a Calles, No 313, *Comayagüela, D.C.*
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, V. Arany János utca 31, *Budapest V*. Mail Add.: *1367 Budapest 5*, Pf. 249.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Øldugøtu 4, Post Box 872, *Reykjavik*.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 1*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Djalan Abdul Muis 66, P.O. Box 2009, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Tehran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, Al-Mansour, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 16 Merrion Square, *Dublin 2*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12 via Toscana, *Rome*.
- IVORY COAST — Ivory Coast Red Cross Society, B.P. 1244, *Abidjan*.
- JAMAICA — Jamaica Red Cross Society, 76 Arnold Road, *Kingston 5*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 1-1-5 Shiba Daimon, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo 105*.
- JORDAN — Jordan National Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 10 001, *Amman*.
- KENYA — Kenya Red Cross Society, St John's Gate, P.O. Box 40712, *Nairobi*.
- KHMER REPUBLIC — Khmer Red Cross, 17 Vithei Croix-Rouge khmère, P.O.B. 94, *Phnom-Penh*.
- KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyongyang*.
- KOREA, REPUBLIC OF — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3Ka Nam Sandong, *Seoul*.
- KUWAIT — Kuwait Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 1359, *Kuwait*.
- LAOS — Lao Red Cross, P.B. 650, *Vientiane*.

- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Général Spears, *Beirut*.
- LESOTHO — Lesotho Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 366, *Maseru*.
- LIBERIA — Liberian National Red Cross, National Headquarters, 107 Lynch Street, P.O. Box 226, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC — Libyan Red Crescent, Berka Omar Mukhtar Street, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN — Liechtenstein Red Cross, FL-9490 *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBOURG — Luxembourg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, C.P. 1806, *Luxembourg*.
- MADAGASCAR — Red Cross Society of Madagascar, rue Clémenceau, P.O. Box 1168, *Tananarive*.
- MALAWI — Malawi Red Cross, Hall Road, *Blantyre* (P.O. Box 30080, Chichiri, *Blantyre* 3).
- MALAYSIA — Malaysian Red Cross Society, 519 Jalan Belfield, *Kuala Lumpur*.
- MALI — Mali Red Cross, B.P. 280, route de Koulikora, *Bamako*.
- MAURITANIA — Mauritanian Red Crescent Society, B.P. 344, Avenue Jamal Abdel Nasser, *Nouakchott*.
- MEXICO — Mexican Red Cross, Avenida Ejército Nacional n° 1032, *México 10 D.F.*
- MONACO — Red Cross of Monaco, 27 boul. de Suisse, *Monte Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, Central Post Office, Post Box 537, *Ulan Bator*.
- MOROCCO — Moroccan Red Crescent, rue Benzakour, B.P. 189, *Rabat*.
- NEPAL — Nepal Red Cross Society, Tahachal, P.B. 217, *Kathmandu*.
- NETHERLANDS — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsessegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND — New Zealand Red Cross, Red Cross House, 14, Hill Street, *Wellington 1*. (P.O. Box 12-140, *Wellington North*).
- NICARAGUA — Nicaraguan Red Cross, 12 Avenida Noroeste 305, *Managua, D.N.*
- NIGER — Red Cross Society of Niger, B.P. 386, *Niamey*.
- NIGERIA — Nigerian Red Cross Society, Eko Aketa Close, off St. Gregory Rd., Onikan, P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*. Mail Add.: *Postboks 7034 H - Oslo 3*.
- PAKISTAN — Pakistan Red Cross, Dr Dawood Pota Road, *Karachi 4*.
- PANAMA — Panamanian Red Cross, Apartado Postal 668, Zona 1, *Panamá*.
- PARAGUAY — Paraguayan Red Cross, calle Andrés Barbero y Artigas 33, *Asunción*.
- PERU — Peruvian Red Cross, Jirón Chancay 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES — Philippine National Red Cross, 860 United Nations Avenue, P.O.B. 280, *Manila D-406*.
- POLAND — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL — Portuguese Red Cross, Jardim 9 de Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon 3*.
- ROMANIA — Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, *Bucarest*.
- SAN MARINO — San Marino Red Cross, Palais gouvernemental, *San Marino*.
- SAUDI ARABIA — Saudi Arabian Red Crescent, *Riyadh*.
- SENEGAL — Senegalese Red Cross Society, Bld. Franklin-Roosevelt, P.O.B. 299, *Dakar*.
- SIERRA LEONE — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6 Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SINGAPORE — Singapore Red Cross Society, 15, Penang Lane, *Singapore 9*.
- SOMALI REPUBLIC — Somali Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 937, *Mogadishu*.
- SOUTH AFRICA — South African Red Cross, Cor. Kruis & Market Streets, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg*.
- SPAIN — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid 10*.
- SRI LANKA — Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, 106 Dharmapala Mawatha, *Colombo 7*.
- SUDAN — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartoum*.
- SWEDEN — Swedish Red Cross, Artillerigatan 6, S-114 51, *Stockholm 14*.
- SWITZERLAND — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, B.P. 2699, *3001 Berne*.
- SYRIA — Syrian Red Crescent, Bd Mahdi Ben Barake, *Damascus*.
- TANZANIA — Tanzania Red Cross Society, Upanga Road, P.O.B. 1133, *Dar es Salaam*.
- THAILAND — Thai Red Cross Society, Paribatra Building, Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO — Togolese Red Cross Society, 51, rue Boko Soga, P.O. Box 655, *Lomé*.
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO — Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, Regional Community Park, Wrightson Road Extension, P.O. Box 357, *Port of Spain*, Trinidad, West Indies.
- TUNISIA — Tunisian Red Crescent, 19 rue d'Angleterre, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UGANDA — Uganda Red Cross, Nabunya Road, P.O. Box 494, *Kampala*.
- UNITED KINGDOM — British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1X 7EJ*.
- UPPER VOLTA — Upper Volta Red Cross, P.O.B. 340, *Ouagadougou*.
- URUGUAY — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A. — American National Red Cross, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington, D.C. 20006*.
- U.S.S.R. — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Tcheremushki I. Tcheremushkinskiy proezd 5, *Moscow B-36*.
- VENEZUELA — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No. 4, Apart. 3185, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF — Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, 68 rue Bà-Triệu, *Hanoi*.
- VIET NAM, REPUBLIC OF — Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, 201 đường Hồng-Tháp-Tu, No. 201, *Saigon*.
- YUGOSLAVIA — Red Cross of Yugoslavia, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.
- ZAIRE (Republic of) — Red Cross of the Republic of Zaire, 41 av. de la Justice, B.P. 1712, *Kinshasa*.
- ZAMBIA — Zambia Red Cross, P.O. Box R.W.1, 2838 Brentwood Drive, *Lusaka*.